

CLAIM LIST

- 1.-20. Canceled
21. (New) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having SEQ ID NO: 3;
and
 - (b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the polynucleotide having SEQ ID NO: 3 under conditions of about 100 mM salt and 60°C, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding an IL-B50 receptor.
22. (New) A purified IL-B50 polypeptide wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, capable of binding IL-B50 receptors.
23. (New) A purified IL-B50 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding IL-B50 receptors.
24. (New) A purified human IL-B50 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to amino acids 1 through 131 of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a fragment thereof, wherein the polypeptide is capable of binding an IL-B50 receptor.

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- 25 ~~26.~~ (New) A method of stimulating lymphoid proliferation, comprising incubating lymphoid cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.
- 26 ~~27.~~ (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising incubating the lymphoid cells with IL-7.
- 27 ~~28.~~ (New) A method of stimulating lymphopoietic development comprising incubating progenitor cells with the polypeptide of claim 22, 23, or 24.
- 28 ~~29.~~ (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the progenitor cells are bone marrow-derived stem cells.
- 29 ~~30.~~ (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising incubating the bone marrow-derived stem cells with IL-7.
- 30 ~~31.~~ (New) The polypeptide of claim 22 or 23, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein.
- 31 ~~32.~~ (New) The polypeptide of claim 31 wherein the fusion protein comprises an Fc domain.